What is claimed is

1. A method for synchronising time bases of a first video de-
    vice which transmits a video signal comprising image in-
    formation and synchronisation information and of a second
    video device which receives said composite video signal,
    wherein
    a) synchronisation information is extracted from the
        video signal received by the second video device and
        from the time base of the second video device;
    b) a phase difference between the video signal received
        by the second video device and the time base of the
        second video device is determined based on said ex-
        tracted synchronisation information;
    characterised in that
    c) control information of a first type representative of
        the amount of said phase difference is transmitted to
        said first device; and
    d) in said first device the phase of the video signal is
        switched by a phase angle represented by said first
        type control information.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein steps a) to b)
    are cyclically repeated.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein
    the first type control information is a binary data word
    having a predefined number $n \geq 2$ of bits,
    e) wherein the first type control information and second
        type control information are determined such that the
        sum of phase differences represented by said first
        and second type control information is the phase dif-
        ference determined in step b),

f)   the second type control information is also transmitted to said first device, and

g)   a phase shift as represented by said second type control information is applied to the video signal in said first device.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein step g) is carried out by increasing or decreasing the frequency of the pixel clock signal of the time base of said first device according to the sign of the phase shift represented by said second type control information.

5.   The method of claim 3, wherein step g) is carried out by increasing or decreasing the frequency of the pixel clock signal of the time base of said first device according to the amplitude of the phase shift represented by said second type control information.

6.   The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein steps c) and d) are carried out only if the phase difference represented by said first type control information is different from zero.

7.   The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a time for carrying out step d) is chosen according to the phase difference determined in step b) such that after carrying out step d) the video signal at the first device assumes a predefined phase.

8.   The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the predefined phase is the beginning of an image in the video signal.

9.   The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image information comprised in the video signal is formed of a se-

quence of images, each image comprising a plurality of
lines, and the first type control information is represen-
tative of a number of lines by which the composite video
signal received from the first video device is phase

5   shifted with respect to the time base of the second de-
vice.

10.   The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the video signal
is transmitted in digital form as a sequence of data pack-

10   ets, each data packet comprising image data and at least
some of the data packets comprising a sending time data
derived from the time base of the first device and repre-
sentative of a sending time of the packet in which it is
comprised, wherein each sending time data, upon receipt by

15   the second device, is compared to receiving time data de-
rived from the time base of the second device, and the
second type control information is derived from a differ-
ence between said sending and receiving time data.

20   11.   The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said first de-
vice comprises a first counter operating based on a pixel
frequency derived from the time base of said first device
and the second device comprises a second counter operating
based on a pixel frequency derived from the time base of

25   said second device, and wherein a counting value of said
first counter is included in a data packet as sending time
data, and is compared to a counting value of said second
counter as receiving time data.

30   12.   The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein when the dif-
ference between counting values of said two counters ex-
ceeds a given threshold, the second counter is set to the
value received from the first counter.

13. A video device having an output port for outputting a
video signal and an input port for inputting control in-
formation, wherein the time base of the device is adapted
to switch the phase of a video signal output at said out-

5   put port by a phase angle specified by a first type of
said control information.

14. The video device of claim 13, wherein the time base is
further adapted to set a pixel frequency of said video

10   signal according to a second type of said control informa-
tion.

15. A video device having an input port for inputting a com-
posite video signal, means for determining a phase differ-

15   ence between the input composite video signal and a time
base of said video device, and an output port for output-
ting control information quantitatively specifying said
phase difference.

20 16. A video device having an output port for outputting a com-
pressed data stream from a compression engine processing
the video signal, an input port for inputting control in-
formation and a time base which is adapted to switch the
phase of the video signal and thus the compressed data

25   stream output at said output port by a phase angle speci-
fied by said control information.

17. A video device having an input port for inputting a com-
pressed data stream having a compression engine pixel fre-

30   quency, a reference input representative of video timing
requested by a mixer for receiving a reference pixel fre-
quency and reference horizontal and/or vertical signals, a
decompression engine, whose pixel clock is obtained from
the reference input signal, and capable to re-build a

video signal out of the compressed data stream, and means for determining a frequency error between the reference pixel frequency and the compression engine pixel frequency, and a phase angle between the output video signal and the reference horizontal and/or vertical signals, and an output port for outputting control information quantitatively specifying said frequency error and said phase angle.